

Appl. No. 09/945,524
Amdt. dated June 15, 2004
Reply to Office action mailed March 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (previously cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): An apparatus for the positioning of a dispenser for laminating an endless ribbon in relationship to a moving web having generally parallel edges defining a web width, the web width not exceeding a certain maximum width, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a traversing mechanism extending transversally of ~~[[said]]~~ the web width and coupled to a drive means, said traversing mechanism defining a traversing path of a first predetermined length, having a direction and which provides a movement means along said traversing path,
- b) a guide rail of a second predetermined length, extending transversally of ~~[[said]]~~ the web width and positioned in a parallel direction to said direction of said traversing path,
- c) a plurality of guide arms, each said guide arm having
 - i. a dispensing means for dispensing said ribbon and a transversal position with respect to said traversing path,
 - ii. a locking means,each said guide arm being movably supported on said guide rail and being either fixedly connected to said movement means or being fixedly connected to said apparatus,

wherein said first predetermined length and said second predetermined length each transversely extend beyond said certain maximum ~~[[web]]~~ width.

Claim 20 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said traversing mechanism is a lead screw.

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Claim 21 (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said movement means ~~[[is a]]~~ are lead nuts screwed on said lead screw.

Claim 22 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said drive means is a motor which rotates said lead screw.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein each said guide arms fixedly connects to one of said lead nuts via said locking means and move along said traversing path as the lead screw is rotated by said motor.

Claim 24 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said locking means are pneumatic driving cylinders mounted on each said guide arm.

Claim 25 (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein each said pneumatic driving cylinder fixedly connects to one of said lead nuts by pushing against that said lead nut in a generally perpendicular direction with respect to said traversing path.

Claim 26 (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein each said guide arms fixedly connect to said apparatus via said locking means and maintain its ~~[[said]]~~ position on said traversing path as the lead screw is rotated by said motor.

Claim 27 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said locking means are pneumatic locking cylinders mounted on each said guide arms.

Claim 28 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein each said pneumatic locking cylinder fixedly connects to said apparatus by pushing against said apparatus in a generally perpendicular direction with respect to said traversing path.

Claim 29 (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said locking means are two pneumatic cylinders mounted on each said guide arm, one of said

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pneumatic cylinders fixedly connects said guide arm to said lead nut so as to move said guide arm along said traversing path as the lead screw is rotated by said motor.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein each said guide arm comprises a bearing support which slides on a series of bearings on said guide rail along said direction of said traversing path.

Claim 31 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said dispensing means are guide pulleys.

Claim 32 (currently amended): An apparatus for the positioning of a dispenser for laminating an endless ribbon in relationship to a moving web having generally parallel edges and defining a web width not exceeding a certain maximum width, said apparatus comprising a traversing mechanism extending transversally of the ~~the~~ [[said]] web width and defining a traversing path having a direction, said traversing mechanism further provides a movement means along said traversing path, a guide rail extending transversally of the ~~the~~ [[said]] web width and positioned in a parallel direction to said direction of said traversing path, each said traversing mechanism and said guide rail extend beyond said certain maximum width, a plurality of guide arms, each having a transversal position with respect to said traversing path and comprising a locking means, each said guide arm being movably supported on said guide rail and being either fixedly connected to said movement means or being fixedly connected to said apparatus by said locking means, said apparatus further comprising:

- a) a control actuating system remotely controlling said locking means via a communication means,
 - b) a guide arm position measuring system acquiring said transversal position of each said guide arm,
 - c) an edge position measuring system tracking at least one of said edges of said web and which generates a transversal edge position with respect to said traversing path,
- said edge position measuring system and said guide arm position measuring system are linked to said control actuating system via said communication means.

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- Claim 33 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein said control actuating system acquires said transversal position of each said guide arm and said transversal edge position and remotely adjust via said communication means said transversal position of each said guide arms with said locking means.
- Claim 34 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said communication means includes electronic signals.
- Claim 35 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said communication means includes energy chains and electronic signals.
- Claim 36 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said communication means includes infrared signals.
- Claim 37 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said guide arm position measuring system comprises a transducer extending along said traversing path and supported by said apparatus, and wherein each said guide arm comprises a magnet localized adjacent to said transducer in order to establish said position of said guide arm to said transducer.
- Claim 38 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein said edge position measuring system is a camera.
- Claim 39 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein said edge position measuring system is a motion sensor.
- Claim 40 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein said edge position measuring system is an infrared system.
- Claim 41 (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said plurality of guide arms can move along said traversing path ~~[away from said web width]~~ such that

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at least one said guide arms can be positioned beyond said certain maximum width
~~[thread up with said ribbon outside of said web width].~~

Claim 42 (currently amended): An apparatus for the positioning of a dispenser for laminating an endless ribbon in relationship to a moving web having generally parallel edges defining a web width not exceeding a certain maximum width, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a traversing mechanism extending transversally of said web width and coupled to a drive means, said traversing mechanism defining a traversing path of a first predetermined length, having a direction and which provides a movement means along said traversing path,
- b) a guide rail of a second predetermined length, extending transversally of said web width and positioned in a parallel direction to said direction of said traversing path,
- c) a plurality of guide arms, each said guide arm having
 - i. a dispensing means for dispensing said ribbon and a transversal position with respect to said traversing path,
 - ii. a locking means,each said guide arm being movably supported on said guide rail and being either fixedly connected to said movement means or being fixedly connected to said apparatus by said locking means,
- d) a control actuating system remotely controlling said locking means via a communication means,
- e) a guide arm position measuring system acquiring said transversal position of each said guide arm,
- f) an edge position measuring system tracking at least one of said edges of said web and which generates a transversal edge position with respect to said traversing path,

wherein said first predetermined length and said second predetermined length each transversely extend beyond said certain maximum width ~~[[web]]~~ width, and wherein said edge position measuring system and said guide arm position measuring system are linked to said control actuating system via said communication means.

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Claim 43 (new): An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said plurality of guide arms can move along said traversing path such that each of said guide arms can be positioned beyond said certain maximum width.